



Office of the Attorney General
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NEWS RELEASE

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL URGES TRA TO PROCEED WITH INVESTIGATION INTO
ATMOS ENERGY CORP. EARNINGS**

Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers is urging the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to proceed with its investigation into allegations Atmos Energy Corporation is overcharging its customers despite a TRA director's recent motion to reconsider the decision.

"Our Consumer Advocate and Protection Division has provided substantial evidence Atmos has overcharged its customers by at least \$10 million a year for natural gas," Attorney General Summers said today. "We want to make sure Tennesseans are not being unduly charged for basic necessities."

The Attorney General's Office filed a petition with the TRA last fall at a time when economists predicted natural gas prices would reach an all-time high. Consumer Advocate analysts and attorneys determined Atmos's delivery costs have declined significantly over the years due to lower interest rates and corporate down-sizing in the Tennessee, but those savings have not been passed on to consumers.

"If the TRA with all its experience and dedicated staff finds that Atmos's rates are just and reasonable then so be it," the Attorney General's Consumer Advocate stated in its most recent filing with the TRA. "But the people of Tennessee at least deserve an investigation and an answer."

On March 23, TRA Director Pat Miller filed a motion to reconsider the TRA's Nov. 7, 2005 decision to open an investigation. The Consumer Advocate noted in its latest response to the motion, however, the "harm that might result" if the TRA did not complete its investigation is still present since estimates show customers are still being overcharged by \$833,333 per month.

The matter was to be heard before the TRA at 1 p.m. today.

Atmos provides natural gas to customers in Bedford, Blount, Carter, Greene, Hamblin, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Maury, Moore, Obion, Rutherford, Sullivan, Washington and Williamson Counties.